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Public Information



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CANADA'S WAR RECORD

Revised to November 1, 1941

Going to War

"Our people went to war for the sake of Canada, but not for Canada alone. We went to war as well for the sake of Britain, for North American civilization which we are proud to defend, and for the sake of that humanity which is above all nations."

Prime Minister Mackenzie King

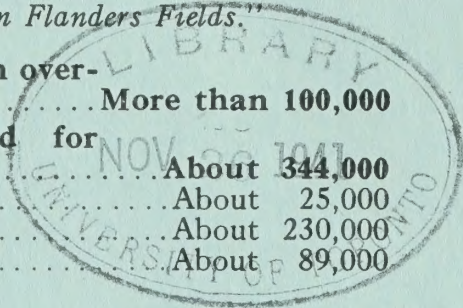
Canada entered the war after full and free debate and entirely of her own volition on September 10, 1939.

Fighting Men

*"Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high."*

From "In Flanders Fields."

Sailors, soldiers and airmen over-seas	More than 100,000
Total voluntarily enlisted for service anywhere	About 344,000
Navy	About 25,000
Army	About 230,000
Air Force	About 89,000



Reserve Army (given part-time training and liable to be called out for home defence)...About 170,000

NOTE:—As statistics relating to the strength of the forces are of vital interest to the enemy, the above figures are all approximate.

Dead or Missing (late October, 1941).....	2,087
Navy.....	403
Army.....	861
Air Force.....	823

The total population of Canada is less than 12,000,000. Canada's 344,000 enlisted for service anywhere would be equivalent, in terms of population, to a strength of about 3,900,000 in the armed forces of the United States.

Canada drafts men aged 21 to 24, who have not joined one of the active armed forces, for full-time home defence duties with the Active Army.

At Sea

"The Canadian Navy is doing a very outstanding job . . . It has been a very considerable help to the whole problem of transport."

*Col. Frank Knox, Secretary
of the United States Navy*

The Royal Canadian Navy has been in action since the outbreak of war, protecting the Dominion's coasts, convoying Canadian and American supplies out of port and on the Atlantic, working in the waters around the British Isles, in the Pacific and in other parts of the seven seas.

The Navy has assisted in convoying ships carrying more than 35,000,000 tons of supplies, sunk enemy submarines, effected rescues at sea, captured several enemy vessels and caused others to be scuttled. It has lost five ships and more than 400 men.

Canada's sailors man more than 300 vessels—merchant cruisers, destroyers, corvettes, minesweepers, converted yachts, and patrol craft.

On Land

"We have a large and constantly growing Canadian Corps in Britain which, individually and collectively, is the match for anything it may meet on the field of battle."

*Major-General H. D. G. Crerar,
Chief of the Canadian General Staff*

Canadian troops have been in Britain since the arrival of the First Division in December, 1939. Soon there will be four divisions (one of them armoured) and a tank brigade overseas. With auxiliary troops, Canadian soldiers in Britain already number scores of thousands of men.

The Canadian Corps in Britain, apart from occasional expeditions, has occupied vital sectors in Britain's front line and acted as a striking force in reserve. On September 4, 1941, Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, said of the Canadian Corps, "There they stand, and there they have stood through the whole of the critical period of the last fifteen months—at the very point where they would be the first to be hurled into a counter-stroke against an invader."

Nearly 10,000 American volunteers are serving in the Canadian Army.

In the Air

"More than two years of war have brought a continuous repetition of the glorious achievements of Canadian airmen in the First Great War."

*Air Vice-Marshal L. S. Breadner,
Chief of the Canadian Air Staff*

Canadian airmen have been engaged in combat since the outbreak of war. Many had joined the R.A.F. before war broke out. Since early in 1940, R.C.A.F. squadrons have been operating in Britain, and for more than a year the output of the Air Training Plan has been swelling the ranks of Canadians in both the R.A.F. and the R.C.A.F. overseas.

Canadian airmen are now fighting over Britain, over Europe, in the Mediterranean area and over Russia. They have shot down considerably more than 200 enemy planes. Sixteen R.C.A.F. squadrons are now organized overseas. Some of them are on bomber, coastal, fighter or night-fighting duties. By the end of this year the number of trained Canadian airmen abroad will be equal to a division of infantry. A total of 823 have been reported as dead or missing by the R.C.A.F.

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, first announced in December, 1939, has expanded very rapidly to keep pace with the urgent demands of the war. The Plan has now virtually been completed—seven months ahead of schedule. Airmen are being turned out at about twice the rate originally planned. The Plan now operates 131 establishments of all kinds and about 100 air fields. The

R.C.A.F. provides 80% of the pilots, gunners and observers being trained under the Plan. Of these about 10% are American volunteers.

In addition, in the past year a considerable number of R.A.F. schools have been transferred to Canada. This movement will continue until perhaps 30 or 40 R.A.F. schools are operating in Canada. Construction for these schools is proceeding at a pace comparable to that when building for the original plan was at its peak.

Canada: Arsenal and Storehouse

"Canadian weapons and supplies are being despatched to all the battle fronts of the world—to Britain, to the Middle East, to the Far East, to our sister Dominions, to China and to Russia."

Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Munitions and Supply

Two years ago Canada was incapable of equipping an infantry division; today she can do it in six weeks. Two years ago the Dominion imported most of what little war equipment she had; today she exports war equipment and supplies to every battlefield in the world.

The following is a list of some of the war equipment and supplies which Canada produces:

SHIPS

Cargo boats
Minesweepers
Corvettes
Motor torpedo boats
Patrol boats
Small boats

GUNS

25-pounder field guns, with equipment, trailers and tractors.
Bofors 40 mm anti-aircraft gun barrels
Complete Bofors 40 mm anti-aircraft guns and mountings
3.7" anti-aircraft gun barrels
Two types of tank and anti-tank gun
2" mortars
3" mortars
Bren guns
Browning aircraft machine guns
Four types of naval gun mountings
Lee-Enfield rifles

AMMUNITION

Small arms ammunition of several types
Shells of 14 types
Cartridge cases
Fuses, gaines and primers
500-lb. aerial bombs
Practice bombs
Depth charges
Anti-tank mines
Rifle grenades
Pyrotechnics of many varieties for aerial, field, naval and practice uses
Trench mortar bombs
Shells, ammunition bombs, etc. filled with Canadian-made explosives and propellants

CHEMICALS AND EXPLOSIVES

12 types of chemicals
8 types of explosives

AIRCRAFT

12 types, including 7 training and 5 service planes

TANKS

Cruiser tanks
Infantry tanks

VEHICLES

Universal Carriers
Wireless trucks
Ambulances
Field workshops
Army mechanized transport of all types

MISCELLANEOUS

Clothing and boots for the three services
Personal equipment
Optical instruments
Military and naval instruments
Radios, radiolocators
Gas masks
Steel helmets
Parachutes
Flare parachutes
Minesweeping gear
Technical naval equipment
Searchlights
Smoke projectors
Marine smoke floats
Hospital equipment and supplies
Gas decontamination suits and equipment

Link trainers
Military furniture and forms
Fire trucks
Fire hose
Asbestos rescue suits
Ammunition boxes
Machine tools
Gauges
Military tires
Anti-submarine gear

RAW MATERIALS

Timber
Nickel
Aluminum
Lead
Copper
Zinc
Asbestos
Mica
Other metals and minerals
Alloys

FOODSTUFFS

Wheat
Flour
Meat
Cheese
Eggs
Canned goods

Aid to Britain

"All help is vital and the quicker you can give it the more help it will be."

*Lord Halifax,
British Ambassador to the United States*

Canada, as Britain's ally, has sent more than 100,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen overseas. These troops are equipped and maintained at the Dominion's expense, with the exception of service craft for the Air Force, which are provided by Britain as part of her contribution to the Air Training Plan.

Most of the equipment and supplies already sent from Canada to Britain have been "lease-lent" by the Canadian people. In the present fiscal year Canada will send \$1,500,000,000 worth of supplies to Britain. Canadians will provide all the money Britain will need to pay for these supplies.

To help Britain to "deliver the goods" to Canada, the Dominion has materially reduced tariffs on imports from Britain. Canada has put tankers and other ships at Britain's disposal. British ships are repaired and supplied in Canadian ports. Canada has taken charge of a considerable number of prisoners of war. More than 6,000 British children have been given homes in Canada for the duration. Canadian homes are prepared to accommodate at least 100,000.

Canadian citizens have voluntarily contributed more than \$27,000,000 to war charities. A large part of this sum has been used to provide money and comforts for the victims of enemy bombing in Britain, for Canadian troops overseas, and to purchase planes and other war equipment. Blankets, clothing, food, mobile kitchens, hospitals, first aid supplies, blood serum, ambulances and prisoners-of-war parcels have been provided.

Canada, the United States and the War

"The Hyde Park Declaration is more than an extension of the Ogdensburg Agreement for hemisphere defence. It is also a joint agreement . . . for aid to Britain."

Prime Minister Mackenzie King

Canada and the United States are co-operating in the production of war materials for the nations actively resisting aggression and for the defence of this hemisphere. Since going to war Canada has bought increasingly large quantities of war supplies from the United States. In the present fiscal year her total imports from the United States will be about twice as great as in 1938. At the same time the United States has increased her purchases of certain Canadian materials vital to defence. Since Hyde Park Declaration of April, 1941, this interchange of defence supplies has been increased. Each country is now concentrating on the production of the defence articles it is geared to produce best and most quickly. Canada is not obtaining supplies under the lend-lease plan. She pays cash for purchases in the United States on her own account.

When Canada went to war two years ago she took immediate steps to ensure the defence of her territory and, subsequently of key points in the western hemisphere. Since the Ogdensburg Agreement of August, 1940, these defensive measures have been co-ordinated with those undertaken by the United States and the two countries have now worked out joint plans for the defence of their part of the western hemisphere. Both Canadian coasts are constantly guarded by large concentrations of troops and by coastal and anti-aircraft guns located at strategic points, as well as by naval and air patrols operating along 2,000 miles of coast line and far out to sea. In the west Canada is building a string of staging airdromes so that military planes from both Canadian and United States centres can be moved into northern British Columbia and Alaska without delay. In the east, United States troops have replaced Canadian forces in Iceland, and they have joined Canadian troops in Newfoundland, where the two countries are building extensive defence facilities. Canada and the United States are in full agreement concerning defence measures in Greenland. Both United States and Canadian troops stand guard in the West Indies. At sea both the Canadian and the United States navies seek out marauding submarines.

The Home Front

“Unless the whole resources and total energy of the free world are thrown into the struggle, the war may drag on for years, carrying in its train famine, pestilence and horrors still undreamed of.”

Prime Minister Mackenzie King

Canadians now pay three times as much in taxes as they did before the war. Five times as many people pay income taxes, which have been sharply raised, and taxes on goods and services have been increased and extended to cover a wide variety of commodities from soft drinks to travel fares. Business income is subject to a minimum tax of 40%, and 79½% of all “excess profits” are taken by the Government.

Since the outbreak of war Canadians have loaned the Government nearly \$1,500,000,000 in return for war bonds and savings certificates. In terms of the relative national incomes of Canada and the United States, this sum is the equivalent of about \$23,000,000,000.

This fiscal year the Canadian Government is spending about \$2,350,000,000 for war—a sum which would be equivalent to an expenditure in the United States of about \$35,000,000,000 for defence and lend-lease aid to Britain in a single year. Forty cents out of every dollar earned in Canada is required to support the war.

The cost of living in Canada is nearly 14% higher than at the outbreak of war. To arrest this trend the Government has taken steps to place the prices of all goods and services under a price ceiling, and wages have been stabilized at prevailing levels.

Many materials are very difficult to get for purposes not connected with the war effort. Among these are iron, steel, aluminum, nickel, zinc, copper, tin, silk and rubber. Supply of non-essential durable goods is limited. New models are "taboo". Passenger automobile production is being cut in half. Output of stoves, refrigerators, radios, vacuum cleaners and washing machines is down to 75% of 1940 production. Such articles are no longer imported from the United States. Instalment purchases of a wide range of articles from furniture to engagement rings can be made only on very strict terms.

Gasoline cannot be purchased on Sundays or between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. on week days.

Canadians cannot get funds to travel in the United States, cannot hold foreign exchange and cannot export capital. The chief purpose of these moves is to enable the Dominion to buy large quantities of war supplies in the United States.

This leaflet is a condensed version of a booklet entitled "Canada at War". Both are revised and issued monthly. Copies of either may be obtained by writing to the Director of Public Information, Ottawa, Canada.

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